

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

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All of the men obtained under the proposed change in the draft law—approximately 3,200,000—were expected to have in France by June 30, 1919.—GENERAL MARCH, Chief of Staff.

The Great Rent Feud

Rents have gone up. So have shoes and ships and all other necessary things of war as well as of peace—including incomes; some incomes, at any rate.

The dollar has gone down. Out of these two motions grows The Great Rent Feud, a chronicle of which begins on the last page of The Tribune to-day.

It is in its beginnings just now, and, like all feuds at that stage, it is full of argument and hard to see in perspective. Perhaps in October it will become simplified—when it's too late. Then the Tenants' League may have fifty thousand members, instead of fifteen hundred. Its present socialist complexion—decidedly red—may be modified by the transference of other less ardent blood from the mass of average New York tenants. And New York may see an emotional fight between leagued tenants and leagued landlords in which everybody will overlook the significance of a 60-cent dollar.

The rent raises are here now. There will be more in October, especially for the better grade leased apartment; there has been already a general advance in rentals. There is a great deal of doubt, however, whether the raises are justified by war expenses, by trade conditions, even by the 60-cent dollar.

Some factors are fairly simple—the tax rate increase, for instance. The city has increased the landlord's tax bill 16 or 17 per cent. But an increase of 16 or 17 per cent in the tax rate is very different from an increase of 16 or 17 per cent in rents. The landlord cannot justify one by the other. But his income is touched by many other factors. His earnings range from the guaranteed 3 per cent clear, which lessors of apartment houses are paying owners who tire of managing their houses themselves, to 15 per cent.

It is not so easy to say just what the average advance in rents has been. You go from nothing at all to 50 and 60 per cent.

It is not so easy to say just what a given per cent of raise means to the landlord. For, outside of taxes, there are a score of indefinite, indeterminate advances in mortgage rates, insurance rates, labor, materials, repairs, service, fuel and everything else paid for by the landlord, and each landlord finds a different increase against a different property.

It is not possible to generalize positively and say once for all that there is profiteering in rent or that there is not. The Tribune hopes to throw light on the complexities of the problem. Until there is more light there can be no sane judgment, either at Washington or at Albany, as to whether a legislative remedy is needed. And unless there is either understanding or remedy the fall may find New York with an ugly rent war on its hands.

It happens that the great rent feud of New York is also the great rent feud of other American cities. It happens, further, that war time is no time for the putting of mob anger, mob reasoning and mob law above the sane and orderly handling of social problems. That is what neglect of the rent problem threatens to do.

Justice as a By-Product

It took a war to do it, but it begins to look as though the old married teacher bugaboo was about to be cast into the discard along with a lot of other impediments that have been fastened upon women too long. United States Commissioner of Education Claxton has just appealed to local school boards to repeal all regulations prohibiting married women from holding public school positions, because of the war shortage of teachers throughout the United States.

It is too bad that our hand had to be forced by sheer necessity on such a

question of simple justice as this is, that our educational system has ever fallen behind business houses and professions in opening the gates as freely to married women as to spinsters. The distinction was always absurd; no woman loses her efficiency, if she ever had any, on her wedding day. As for teaching, it is not inconceivable that a wife and mother might understand children just as well as the unmarried woman.

But since married women are to be allowed to teach because there is no longer any getting on without them, we cannot plume ourselves, as would be pleasant to do, on our generosity toward women teachers who have chosen to be wives as well as teachers. We can only be grateful that the war does throw off some useful by-products that peace, with all its beauties, had never achieved.

Kaiser Karl Gets the Gold Brick

What is a little thing like a kingdom, a race or a people between rulers as blasé about the disposition of such matters as are the two All Highests of Potsdam and Vienna? Between such august chaffers nations, capitals and subjects are only the small change of negotiation.

Kaisers Wilhelm and Karl have met at German Grand Headquarters and settled the fate of Poland on a bargain counter basis. The German General Staff needs men on the Western front. So the big Teuton War Lord offered to renounce his interest in the Polish crown to the little Teuton War Lord, if the latter would turn over to Ludendorff "ten or fifteen Austrian divisions."

Austria-Hungary cannot spare that many men without relaxing her hold on Northern Italy. But so inborn is the Hapsburg greed for territory that Emperor Karl was willing to trade Italian conquests, which he probably feels he can never realize on, for a shadowy claim on the Polish spoils torn by Germany and Austria-Hungary from the clutch of the Romanoffs. So far as these two ancient partitioners of Poland can determine it, the inheritance of the third partitioner is to go to a Hapsburg archduke. The new "independent" Kingdom of Poland is to become an Austro-Hungarian dependency.

At Brest-Litovsk Czernin and von Kuhlmann swore adherence to the principle of "self-determination" by the people detached from the former Russian Empire. This is the "self-determination" offered Poland—to be traded to the Austrian crown in exchange for "ten or fifteen divisions." The old Grand Duke of Hesse used to sell his soldiers for gold. The heir of Francis Joseph sells his not for cash, but for a defective and unclearable real estate title.

Poland will never be Austrian. She will never be German. The unconquerable race instinct of the Polish people has defied all attempts at assimilation, whether by Austrian, German or Russian conquerors. The garment of the Polish nation cannot be gambled away at German Grand Headquarters. Poland will arise out of this war a reunited and regenerated state, cured of the follies of her glorious past by a long discipline of servitude.

Wilhelm has sold Karl nothing for something, just as he sold nothing for something to Ferdinand the Bulgar and the Caliph of the Faithful. Let Karl carry home the Polish crown and give it to a kinsman. When the war ends it will be only one more crown for one more king in exile.

Aspersing an Ally

Sedition cannot be successfully gagged. It is too resourceful, subtle and sly. For example, one cannot any longer say with impunity, as Hearst said on December 9, 1917, that the offensive and defensive alliance between Japan and England "was aimed at the United States."

It is unsafe to say, as Hearst said on June 18, 1917, that Japan will come out of the war "more of a menace to the United States than she ever was before."

It would now be thought disloyal to say, as Hearst said only five and a half months ago: "If Great Britain cannot restrain her special ally from acts of aggression inimical to our interests we can remove our ships and troops from Europe and transfer them to Asia."

It would be positively dangerous now to propagate the official German suggestion that Japan and not Germany is America's real enemy, or to say, as Hearst said seven and a half months ago:

"Every day that the present European war lasts the white races are becoming weaker and poorer and less numerically, and less able to dispute with the yellow races the domination of the world. . . . The only battles which count are the battles which saved the white race from the subjugation of the yellow races. . . . Russia was the great buffer between Europe and Asia. . . . Germany and Austria, the second line of defence, we are endeavoring to depopulate and destroy. . . . Is it not time that the white nations settled their quarrels among themselves and made preparations to meet their one real danger?"

Since this attack upon our Japanese ally appeared in The New York American people have become keener to recognize sedition, the government has become much less tolerant, and, besides, Americans and Japanese are now fighting shoulder to shoulder on the other side of the world. A paper that should repeat that insult to Japan, even a Hearst paper, would be shut up by the government.

Nevertheless, one skilled in that ironic opposite manner of writing, wherein you say one thing and are understood to mean another, may still insult Japan in the act of pretending to speak well of a

brave ally, as Arthur Brisbane does in the following case, taken from The New York American of last Friday:

"It is easy to guess with what enthusiasm the Japanese will fight, with all their white brothers looking on and admiring."

"The glory of being first into Berlin would appeal strongly to the Mikado, no doubt, especially as the Kaiser sent him insulting messages about what he would do to Japan—after finishing with the Allies. Finishing with the Allies has turned out to be a somewhat tedious process."

"Plenty of glory for Japan, if she goes ahead with her usual energy and success. And many things more substantial than glory. For Siberia would give her rich lands in which to expand and give her crowded population a chance. And who could say fairly—if the Japanese were first to reach Unter den Linden—that she must go all the way back and keep nothing? Plenty of interesting possibilities in that great forward movement of Japan—for this generation and for the future."

Does it mean nothing that Japan has pledged her word to withdraw from Russia cleanly when the job of beating Germany is finished? Does it mean nothing that the United States has pledged her word upon Japan's?

\$700 for a Suit of Clothes in Russia

The American-Russian Chamber of Commerce has supplied some interesting details as to the prices for standard articles of trade in Russia at the present time. If we take the normal exchange rate of the ruble at 52 cents, black bread is now costing about \$6 a pound, sugar \$20 a pound and an ordinary suit of clothes \$700. This reads astonishingly like the prices current in the Confederate States toward the close of the Civil War, when a pair of boots or shoes might cost \$1,000, and so on. There have been no recent figures available as to the amount of paper, or "Kerensky money," as it is contemptuously called, that has so far been printed in Russia. At last accounts it amounted to something like eighteen or twenty billions, or more paper money probably than exists in all the rest of the world put together. Its value is in accordance with these facts. Yet at the beginning of the war and for some time thereafter a Russian paper ruble was literally as good as gold.

We hope these facts will not escape the eyes of the visionaries in this country whose latest proposal is to make Liberty bonds legal tender. If the ten billions so far issued were to be converted into paper money over-night by such an edict as this, the fate of prices in the United States would be very much the same as that of those in Russia. If there are those to complain of the H. C. L. now, what would be the situation if present prices were to be doubled or tripled, as inevitably they would be?

The South Turns

The problem of lynching is a most complex one, and no one in the North with the remotest sense of fact will wish to underestimate the difficulties which it involves. There have been too many outbreaks of race prejudice north of Mason and Dixon's line to permit any section of the country to be self-righteous.

But its terrible evil can be met and must be met the country over. What was an urgent demand before the war has become an urgent necessity through the facts of the great conflict. The negro is fighting splendidly for civilization. He is surely entitled to the protection of civilization. The country will see that he gets it.

That is why the announcement of The San Antonio Express, which we print in another column on this page, is so important and gratifying. It shows that the South is in accord with the general opinion of the country, and that sound, able efforts are upspringing naturally from the soil of the South to meet the problem. The measures proposed are clear and practical. They are bound to have results. We congratulate The San Antonio Express on its courage and good sense.

The Ways and Means Committee has much intuitive knowledge of human nature. It proposes to write into the new revenue bill a silent income tax collector whom none can escape and few can cheat. It is a very simple thing. The names of those who pay income taxes, with the amount opposite each name, will be posted conspicuously in every district. We leave it to the trained psychologist to guess the extent to which Uncle Sam's income is likely by this means to be increased. Particularly, we are interested in the suggestion that the committee expects this publicity to work its greatest effects in the country and rural districts—that is to say, among the farmers. The collection of an income tax from farmers is, in general, a high farce. Nobody knows what a farmer's income is—not even the farmer. A city dweller who makes \$5,000 a year and spends it every bit for the living of himself and family nevertheless has to report it and pay an income tax. The farmer and his family treat their living as if it did not count. At the end of the year the farmer feels in his pocket, and if it is empty he says: "I have made nothing this year; therefore there is no income to report."

"It is believed," says the State Department solemnly, "that many aliens have been leaving the United States as German agents, carrying information." Therefore aliens are to be forbidden freedom of departure. And we have been at war nearly seventeen months!

War's Odds and Ends

By Chester M. Wright.
Member of the Recent American Federation of Labor Mission to Great Britain

ONE of the matters we found Britain looking to with much earnestness is the question of giving fair living conditions to returning soldiers.

A vast housing scheme is being got under way through which the national government, in cooperation with local governments, will provide housing for something like 200,000 families. These are the considerations:

Light, beauty, play space, garden space, comfort, and no rent profiteering. The government plans to guarantee local communities against loss in construction of homes and expects to see that the renter doesn't get the burden of increased building costs thrust upon his war-worn shoulders. There seems to be a belief on the part of the government that the individual should not have to shoulder the heavy increase in building costs that have come with the war and its demands for these materials in other directions.

Colonization on small tracts also is being developed, and it is the hope that each community will have a colony of small holdings near it. The government was empowered in 1916 to secure 6,000 acres in England and 2,000 in Scotland, and nearly all of this has been secured. Extension of this power was being considered when we were in England.

The government cannot lend money, but it gets the land, spends \$200 on a house and from \$150 to \$200 on other buildings. The soldier then gets these buildings on a ten-acre tract for a rental of £10 a year.

Four colonies under the 1916 act now are under way. Under the proposed extension the government may buy or lease up to 60,000 acres. For a great national scheme after the war it is planned to secure something like a million acres for distribution in the form of small holdings.

And this whole business amounts to a revolution in British landholding.

WHEN Secretary Baker came back from France he made a speech in which he asked his hearers to come away from the physical side of war to the side of war which had to do with what the war's about. Unless we could keep constantly in mind what the war is about we should not know what to do, especially after seeing the physical side. American fights because she knows what the war is about.

Over there you see the physical side as we can never see it here, even when our shiploads of wounded men began to come back to proud and loving arms.

There's London, pained London, tortured London, London of the grim, set face. London with her lads in hospital blue everywhere. Scarcely can you pass a square without meeting several. You feel as you pass people on the streets that you are constantly brushing against bleeding hearts.

You've got to keep conscious of what the war's about. For what the war is about everything is not too much.

London has this in her heart, this consciousness of what it's about.

So, through her weariness and pain, she gives you her brave "Cheery-o" and says to herself without set teeth, "Carry on!"

You get to love those words—the "Cheery-o" and the "Carry on."

IT SEEMS almost useless to recount the foul doings of the German army. But a British captain gave us an account of Hun conduct that reveals the barbarous "science" of it better than most instances of their despicable brutality.

When the Germans, in the first rush toward Paris, overran Nesle they gathered the population for some distance around and herded all into the little town. In all, Nesle had a population of about 10,000. A regular concentration camp under German despotism. About half of the population thus gathered at Nesle were women.

Then came the French and British wave, pushing back the Boche horde. Nesle had eventually to be abandoned. And the retirement was rather hasty.

This is what the Germans did: They took with them every woman who was in the least degree physically attractive and left behind every woman who was in no degree physically attractive.

The British captain who described this to us was in the force that entered Nesle when the Germans were driven out.

Hail Columbia!

(From London Accounts)

Presumably in no other country in the world would the remarkable scenes witnessed in England on the Fourth of July this year have been possible. Can one, for instance, conceive of our trusty and respected allies, the French, celebrating with us their defeat at Waterloo or the Germans paying homage to the memory of Napoleon on the anniversary of Jena? Yet the day of the Declaration of Independence was a day of humiliation for the British Empire without a parallel in all its chequered history; and, lo and behold! a century elapses and finds us celebrating as a national festival the anniversary of our loss forever of the better part of a continent.

To an Airman

Over Point o' Woods—Great South Bay

WE SAW your gray wings in the sunset sky.

We heard your motor singing as it whirled.

Mounting the dunes of cloud with majesty

And grace—Close in the leaves a drowsy bird

Stirs softly and the wild rose bends its stem;

The painted slender grasses throw dim

Of shadow, yet the heart leaps up from them

To climb with you the perilous, bright

Place.

Far in the beauty of the wind you ride;

The stars swing out like lanterns up the

air.

Then like a dreaming gull you drop and

glide

Over the tranquil Bay; to-night is there

Upon your wing the grandeur of the sea.

The mystery of the stars and victory!

FLORENCE RIPLEY MARTIN.

Point o' Woods, Long Island, N. Y.

FAILURE OF THE REPTILE FUND



The Kaiser (to von Bernstorff): "You said the print paper situation was satisfactory. Yet Bolo Pacha has been shot, we have lost 'The New York Evening Mail' and Hearst is being persecuted by those Yankee swine."

A Price on Lynchers

Extraordinary Announcement by "The San Antonio Express"

THE publishers of "The San Antonio Express" have established and set aside a fund of \$100,000 to be used in combating the crime of lynching in this country, thereby to aid in stamping out the lawlessness and violence of the mob.

At the latest meeting of the stockholders of The Express Publishing Company, August 1, it was determined to devote this sum of money to the purpose of rewarding persons who shall be directly responsible for the arrest and conviction of those who incite riots and mob outbreaks that result in lynchings, and of those who perpetrate the lynching crime itself.

It was the earnest, expressed opinion of every member of the stockholding body at the meeting that the irremediable injustices, the debasement and degradation worked by a crime that invariably exhibits a contempt for law and order, and an enmity to the decent systems of courts and law enforcement, must be brought to an end throughout the United States.

Lynching must no longer go unpunished or lightly punished, in any state or districts of this nation.

Lynchers of Negroes Especially

The anti-lynching fund of "The San Antonio Express" will be employed in this manner:

A reward of \$500 will be paid to each person who shall be directly responsible for the arrest with subsequent conviction and punishment of any person or persons who were instrumental in arousing a mob to commit a lynching or in putting through the lynching itself, when the individual lynched was not a negro.

A reward of \$1,000 will be paid to each person who shall be directly responsible for the arrest, with subsequent conviction and punishment, of any person or persons who were instrumental in arousing a mob to commit a lynching or in putting through the lynching itself, when the individual was a negro.

This fund of \$100,000 and the offer of reward hereunder will be maintained and in effect for a period of five years from August 3, 1918.

The system of rewards will apply to any and every crime of lynching committed within the bounds of Continental United States—that is, exclusive of the American possessions of Porto Rico, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, the Panama Canal Zone, etc.

Rewards Open

To Everbody

These rewards will be paid to private citizens—persons of either sex or to peace officers of whatever class; sheriffs, their deputies and possemen; constables and their deputies; United States marshals, their deputies and possemen; city or state police, rangers, etc.; officers and men of the organized military forces or National Guard of the several states, and to any and all other persons who may not be debarred legally from the acceptance of a reward for this character of law enforcement.

Five hundred dollars is fixed as the reward for directly bringing about the arrest, conviction and punishment of a person or persons guilty of lynching an individual other than a negro, and \$1,000 is fixed as the reward in the case of the lynching of a negro for this reason:

A heavy majority of the crimes of

lynching in this country have negroes as their victims.

Therefore, the larger reward and the more stringent measures should be applied to the more prolific phase of this hideous evil of lynching.

Lynching of Whites Is Rare

As compared with the number of instances of such outrages against negroes—and against the law, the decency and the morality of the people—instances of the lynching of whites are rare.

It must be noted that payment of these rewards is strictly conditioned upon not only the arrest but the conviction and punishment—by court or jury, according to the system that may obtain in the jurisdiction wherein the crime was committed—of the lynchers. Only by stringent punishment may this destructive crime be kept down and finally eradicated.

Those entrusted with the use of "The Express" anti-lynching fund will have nothing to do with cases in which conviction is followed by suspended sentence, or by any punishment that does not fit the crime; that is, there must be the death penalty or a term of years in state's prison, according to the circumstances of the crime in evidence.

Whenever claim shall be made for the payment of reward out of this fund the management of "The Express" will investigate fully as to the claimant's connection with the arrest and trial of the lyncher, whether the lyncher's conviction and punishment were effected through the genuine interest of the claimant, by information to the authorities and by honest testimony in court.

Further details as to the operation of this system of rewards may be announced at some future date.

A Fight for Self-Respect

The creation of this fund was voted by the stockholders on the recommendation of George W. Brackenridge, of San Antonio. Mr. Brackenridge has been energetically and practically interested for years in the various efforts of both legal authority and social organizations throughout the Union to do away with mob violence, especially when it takes the form of lynching.

"The San Antonio Express," like most other self-respecting newspapers on either side of Mason and Dixon's Line, has for years made its vigorous fight editorially against a condition of lawlessness and brutality that blackens the name and besmirches the citizenship of any community, South or North, that witnesses and allows a single lynching.

Public sentiment against this crime is steadily gaining in strength, in the number of adherents pledged to law and order, and in stern expressions by assemblies of good citizens everywhere in the United States.

Guessed 'Em Wrong

We have tried our best to form a just estimate of George Creel in this last trying year, and we are now thoroughly convinced that he misjudges the temper of the American people by thinking they'd rather have a pen picture twenty-four hours late than to have a bare fact right away.

The Past of Things

VLADIVOSTOK
Meaning "The Ruler of the East"

THIS chief Russian seaport and naval station on the Pacific, situated near the Manchurian-Korean frontier, seems to be destined to impart new strength to the temporarily enfeebled Western Empire of the deceased dynasty of Mikhail Romanoff.

The Russians, ever dreaming of their Tsarigrad on the Bosphorus, nicknamed Golden Horn one of the expansions of the Peter the Great Gulf, on which the city stands. The hills surrounding the latter are covered with forests of oak, lime, birch, cedar and a dozen of other kinds of beautiful and useful trees, furnishing excellent timber.

Although standing in the same parallel as Marseilles, Vladivostok has an average annual temperature of only 40 degrees F., and, although the gulf itself never freezes, a thin ice crust forms along the shores in December, remaining until April.

The town, which was founded in 1860, is an island of Western culture in the Oriental sea of the Far East. It had 91,464 inhabitants in 1912 and possesses, besides a cathedral, a museum and an observatory and several important office and private buildings. Seen from afar the city offers an imposing aspect, mainly on account of its numerous churches with their brilliant cupolas.

In 1876 the city became a fortress. In 1905, at the occasion of the insurrection against the central government, part of the city was laid in ashes.

Before the breaking out of the present war the German element played a preponderant part in the commercial and social life of the town. The German language disputed the hegemony to Chinese and English.

In 1912 one-tenth of the total tonnage of the harbor was of German origin. The importation exceeds by far the exportation. The main imported articles are iron, all sorts of machinery, paint-stuffs, beer, glass, porcelain, furniture, coal and spices. Exportation includes, principally, timber, potatoes, salted fish and skins.

In 1908 40,422 passengers left Vladivostok; the arrivals amounted to 49,344. The number of incoming ships in that year was 573, with a total tonnage of 761,188.

DIDEROT, JR.

Noon Prayers

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In an editorial of this date you refer to the suggestion of the Rotary Club that the Angelus or its equivalent be universally observed at this time. Permit me to say that for several weeks the churches of New Rochelle have been open for meditation and prayer during the hour following the ringing of church bells at noon of every day.

The worshiper may come or go at any time within the hour, and all the people of the city are asked to lift their hearts to God some time within the hour.

THOMAS B. JOHNSON.
New Rochelle, N. Y., Aug. 15, 1918.